

Noisettes

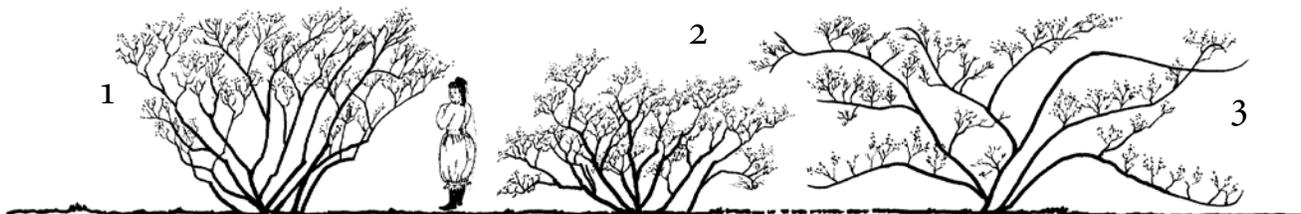
Originating with an 1802 Musk-China cross by John Champneys of Charleston, South Carolina (CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER), this group combined the broad, shrubby habit and scented large clusters of flowers seen in the Musk rose with the pink coloring, larger flowers and continuous bloom of the Chinas. Dozens of these old Noisette roses have been discovered in the South and West where they thrive, sometimes the differences being rather slight. This group gained its name from the French nurseryman brothers, the Noisettes, who took Champneys' seedlings back to Europe and bred extensively from them with Tea roses. We have separated this Tea-influenced group of hybrids out and given them their own section in this catalogue, the Tea-Noisettes.

In the autumn of 2006 the International Heritage Rose Symposium convened in Charleston to honor and to investigate the Noisette roses, this unique and extraordinary group of roses which began in America. A notable feature of this conference was the creation of a study collection of the old Noisettes, in particular the types we discuss in this chapter, those simple, early types like CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER. As these old plants have been collected, their similarities have posed problems in distinguishing one from another. This study has shed light on this group and has begun the documentation of the old Noisettes. Plants have been sent from gardeners around the world to join this collection, and we hope that many of you will journey to Charleston to learn more about this historic rose family.

Habit

Most of the old Noisettes are remarkably similar and represent a group that could be utilized for this uniformity, as in a hedge. We offer the primary Noisette group and two subsidiaries to describe the range of habits.

1. (E.g., CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER) Upright shrubs with an abundance of smooth basal canes ending in large flower clusters, normally 6' to 8' in height and 6' or more across.
2. (E.g., BOUGAINVILLE) A more compact type of Noisette, exhibiting similar characteristics to the first group, but somewhat stouter of cane, to about 4' to 5' tall.
3. (E.g., AIMÉE VIBERT SCANDENS) A scandent type, the climbing sports of the other Noisettes, sends up long canes that do not end in flowers, but bloom abundantly on laterals.



AIMÉE VIBERT

N rrr/ffff/2 Vibert, 1828 [HRG]

This original form of AIMÉE VIBERT is not the well-known arching grower that does not repeat well; it bears the same very fragrant white flowers, full of petals, on a short, spreading plant, and repeats continuously.

are not reliably repeat-blooming, but our current plant has been a superb rebloomer, and we highly recommend it.

“ARCATA PINK GLOBE” (see Ramblers)

“BERMUDA KATHLEEN”

N (T) rrr/fff/1 Bermuda, found [Knopf]

A semi-double hybrid that has a shrubby, spreading habit of growth, fragrant blooms in large clusters, and flowers that undergo a color change, starting cream to blush and finishing lilac-rose to dark pink. Believed to be a chance seedling

AIMÉE VIBERT SCANDENS

N r/fff/3 Curtis, 1841 [Pickering]

A climbing sport of the original AIMÉE VIBERT with heavily scented many-petalled white flowers. Many clones of this

of *MUTABILIS*, we suspect the other parent may have been an Old Noisette, and the plant could easily be included in this group, if not for the mutable color. One of the Bermuda mystery roses.

BLUSH NOISETTE

N rrr/ffff/1 Noisette, 1817 [unknown]
If the name is correct, this is the original offspring of *CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER* raised in France and portrayed by Redouté. In any event it is an excellent rose, very fragrant, with all the Noisette charm. A moderate shrub or pillar, it is rarely without flowers.

BOUGAINVILLE

N rrrr/ff/2 P. Cochet, 1822 [Pickering]
Tiny one-inch flowers, red in bud, opening a rich pink with tiny quilled petals. The effect is of a hundred pink starbursts in a cluster. Easily kept to 4' × 4'.

BOUQUET TOUT FAIT

N rrr/fff/1 Laffay, pre-1836 [Huntington]
Drenched in a pungent musky scent, the large flowers of vanilla cream make splendid bouquets. A strong grower to 6' by 6', this plant is rarely out of bloom, and in the fall astounds us with the immense size of the sprays. One of the few *CHAMPNEYS'* styled Noisettes from France that is still grown.

CAMÉLIA ROSE

N rrr/ff/3 Prévost, c.1830 [SJHRG]
This rose borders between Tea-Noisette and Old Noisette and definitely has a long-caned, semi-climbing habit, but with small, round flowers of rose pink, tinting lilac pink with a paler center. Nice fragrance.

CAROLINE MARNIESSE*

[“LYKKE WHITE PET,” “DUCHESS DE GRAMMONT”]

N (Pol) rrr/fff/2 Roeser, 1848 [Lykke]
Long a puzzlement to us, this came from Denmark as *WHITE PET*, but is rather robust growing for a Polyantha with very double white flowers in cone-shaped clusters. Often sending out 3-foot shoots sideways and upwards, it was clearly wrong. In 1995 at the Roserie de l'Hay we saw this rose labeled *CAROLINE MARNIESSE*, an Old Noisette type. This would have been of the growth habit of the non-climbing form of *AIMEE VIBERT*; all very suggestive that this name may be the correct one for our old Poly from Denmark. We have also received this as *DUCHESS DE GRAMMONT*, which would have been a much larger growing rose, without the spreading habit. Makes a nice small climber to about 4'.

“CATO'S CLUSTER”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Grate; Cato]
Three-inch shapely pink flower-cups with heart-shaped petals, very fragrant. Thanks to both Frances Grate and Malcolm Manners for supplying us with the correct plant which we did not have previously. This lovely Noisette find comes to us from Carl Cato.

CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER

N rrr/fff/1 Champneys, c. 1802 [Huntington; Bell i.d.]

Semi-double flowers of palest pink, petals overlapping in layers and revealing a column of cream styles, have a musky-sweet scent. Bushy and tall. If we can believe the identification made by Léonie Bell, and it certainly looks correct, this is the original rose produced by John Champneys of Charleston. With all the old Noisettes that have surfaced in the past few decades, will we ever know for sure?

DUCHESS DE GRAMMONT (see *CARDINE MARNIESSE*)

“FEWELL'S NOISETTE”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Knopf found]
Reddish new canes and thorns set off the plant's climbing habit. Flowers are blush pink, showy and scented of musk and pineapple. Clusters are adorned with foliaceous sepals.

“FRAZER'S PINK MUSK”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Huntington]
Pinky-blush flowers reminiscent of *DOUBLE MUSK*, but more refined. A bushy plant that could be hedged and kept to 4' or so. We are not certain, but what we offer under this name may be the same as the “*LINGO MUSK*,” which see for more.

“HAYNESVILLE PINK CLUSTER”

N rrr/ffff/1 unknown, found [ARE]
An arching grower with semi-double light pink flowers warmed with yellow petal bases. While not of earthshattering beauty, this is typical of this class; fragrant, carefree, blooming restlessly from April to November in mild climates.

JACQUES AMIOT

N rrr/fff/3 unknown, pre-1867 [Roseraie de l'Hay]
A moderate, bushy shrub with clear pink flowers, cupped, with stark white at the petal bases, half-buttoned but showing stamens, we have previously been unable to find a source for this name except for the Tea-Noisette introduced in 1844 by Varangot. Brent Dickerson recently shared information he uncovered in a Soupert et Notting catalogue of 1867, from which we take this new spelling and information. Thanks, Brent! We do think this has some Bourbon in it despite its designation as a Noisette.

“JEANNE D'ARC” (see *ST. LEONARD'S*)

“LA NYMPHE”

N rrr/fff/2 unknown, unknown [Huntington]
Pretty cupped flowers come in shades of pink from blush to rose, deeper toned in cool seasons, with a sweet Damask perfume. The blooms can be 3 inches or so across and vary in the size of their clusters. This is one of the Bourbon-Noisettes which has a very expansive growth habit and makes a good small climber. We obtained this from the Huntington, though ironically it was collected in our own home town. This attribution may refer to a Tea-Noisette seedling

of MARÉCHAL NIEL, called NYMPHE, from 1910 which was white with a yellow center.

“LINGO MUSK”

N rrr/ff/1 unknown, found [Bell collected?] Huge clusters of blush flowers touched rosy at the edges. Creates a continuous and generous display of bloom. From what I have been told by Doug Seidel, this was received by him and Léonie Bell from Joseph Kern in 1970, a rose originally collected by Mr. Lingo in north Florida, and was dubbed by Léonie “FRAZER’S PINK MUSK.” I have been unable to determine if this is the same as the “FRAZER’S PINK MUSK” we got from the Huntington, but we are currently studying the similarities.

“MANCHESTER GUARDIAN ANGEL” see Tea-Noisettes

MARY WASHINGTON

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, pre-1900 [Huntington] Round flowers with lightly pointed petals of off-white touched with pink. Massive heads of bloom appear on a very bushy plant. This is supposed to have been originated by George Washington; it is said to have been growing at Mount Vernon for about a hundred years.

MISS RUTH*

N rrr/fff/1 Lowery, 2005 [Vintage Gardens] To honor our dear friend, and champion of the Old Noisettes, Ruth Knopf, we offer this very lovely pink flowered rose which came as a seedling in our garden; from whence we are not certain, though signs point to the Musk rose as well as to THE GARLAND. The blooms are small, double, rose-pink and very fragrant, the stems thornless, the habit upright and arching to about 6’.

“MRS. WOODS’ LAVENDER-PINK NOISSETTE”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Hahn; HRG] Large clusters of cool pink informal blooms with a delicious scent. A very bushy, vase-shaped grower which repeats continually. This came to us from Heritage Rose Gardens.

MULTIFLORE DE VAUMARCUS*

N rrr/fff/1 Menet, 1875 [Schultheis] Very double flowers, deep pink in the bud, open to blush pink, cupped and very elegant. They come in large clusters on a plant rich with lustrous foliage. A great treasure among Noisettes.

NARROW WATER

N rrr/fff/1 Daisy Hill Nsy., 1883 [HRG] Believed to be a sport of Nastarana in blush pink; same sweet musk fragrance as NASTARANA. Another treasure, and, like the previous, it also comes to us from Heritage Rose Gardens.

NASTARANA

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, 1879 [Pickering] An early Noisette rediscovered in the late 19th century; very fragrant white flowers touched with pink. Some claim this is one of the most scented of all roses.

“NATCHITOCHE NOISSETTE”

N rrr/fff/2 unknown, found [ARE] Some of the loveliest roses have come to us from the Antique Rose Emporium and the rose rustlers of Texas, where mystery roses are treated with great respect. One of my loves is this rose with its large globular pink flowers, very pink for us, more blush in the South, with a sweet, peppery fragrance.

“PLACERVILLE WHITE NOISSETTE”

N rrrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Robinson-Lowery] Phillip Robinson and I collected this in the Placerville Union Cemetery, where several plants survive of it; one is sheared over with hedge trimmers and the result is stunning. Very double white flowers, prettily formed, reminding me of the rose we grow as BLUSH NOISSETTE, only in white.

PRINCESSE DE NASSAU

N rrr/fff/3 Laffay, 1835 [Heirloom] Rather large flowers of soft pink, cupped and full of petals, the foliage strongly inclined toward that of the Musk roses. Longer caned and more robust than many Noisettes; a very good repeater.

“RUTH’S PINK MUSK”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [HRG; Knopf, found] Deep rose pink flowers with intense fragrance in the old style, reminiscent of CHAMPNEYS’ PINK CLUSTER. We are somewhat in a muddle as to which of Ruth Knopf’s collections this might be, as Ruth is unsure herself. It is the pinkest of these old Noisette types, with cupped flowers of great charm, and has won the hearts of some, who will remain nameless, who say they find the Champneys’ type of roses unspectacular and all of a kind.

ST. LEONARD’S

[“MISS GLEGG,” “JEANNE D’ARC”]

N rrrr/fff/1 Verdier, 1848 [ARE] Lovely, nearly pure white Noisette with ribbon-like petals, a tight boss of golden stamens, giving a lemon whiteness to the petals. Continuous bloom. As was pointed out to us by Doug Seidel, the real JEANNE D’ARC was a Tea-Noisette of the LAMARQUE persuasion. This was collected by Doug from the garden of a friend of Mrs. Keays, Mrs. Malcolm Rorty, and was known by Mrs. Keays as “ST. LEONARDS.”

“SECRET GARDEN NOISSETTE”*

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, unknown [SJHRG] A small flowered noisette in white with reddish staining to the outer petal edges, quite double. Found at the same site as the “SECRET GARDEN MUSK” by Joyce Demits and Virginia Hopper. This rose is gaining renown for its exceptional fragrance and display of bloom.

“TUTTA’S PINK NOISSETTE”

N rrr/fff/1 unknown, found [Knopf] Proof of the great number of old Noisettes that still survive in the South, this was found by Ruth Knopf’s sister, Tutta. Few petals, in the Champneys’ mould, but more refined. Blush pink, fragrant.